GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3406
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
BUDGETARY OUTLAY FOR CHILDREN
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children are one third of the population but the share for them in the Union Budget is very low;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to allocate more funds for children.

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (c): Children in the age group of 0-14 years comprise of 35.35% of the total population as per 2001 Census. For the first time in the Union Budget 2008-09 has a separate section with Statement of budget estimate (expenditure) for the schemes for the welfare of children in different Ministries/Departments which works out to 4.45% of the total budget. However, the estimates of expenditure have been made in respect of schemes which are substantially exclusive for children. There are other schemes of different Ministries/Departments which benefit both children and adults. For instance the estimates do not capture budget figures from schemes relating to drinking water supply, sanitation, road and transport, electrification, irrigation etc., which are not children-exclusive but benefit equally both children and adults. With further refinement of the process of estimate, the Budget Estimate for Children can increase substantially.